



Attendees: Mike Wilson, Zeenat Niazi, Steve Bass, Tom Mitchell, Carla Vidussi, Oliver Greenfield

+ from GEC secretariat – Chris Hopkins due to the strategic importance of this discussion to our new phase of work

Apologies: Ade Odegbile, Peter Poschen, Juha Siikamaki

**Agenda 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023:**

1. March minutes for approval.
2. Big programme review (responding to the forward SG calendar)
  - Social contract
  - Shared global green deal
3. AOB:
  - Outstanding SG action – to schedule discussion on SG evolution
  - Next meeting date - **Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

**1. Draft – March Minutes – attached**

**1. For SG sign-off**

**2. GEC's Big programme review**

**2023-2027, is a new GEC Phase** with an updated strategy “**Renegotiating new social contracts for a shared global green deal**” that was signed off by **Steering Group March 2023**. GEC secretariat is developing detailed programmes for this work, and here we introduce the shape, status and early outputs to gain steering group understanding, support and advice.

In essence, in this refreshed strategy GEC is asking 2 macro questions:

- 1. How do we get a democratic transformation? Or in other words - How do we gain society's support for economic transformation so it is greener, fairer and faster?**
- 2. How do we ensure the transformation is inclusive to all nations?**

Answering these two questions and deploying their work, team and answers in mutually reinforcing ways is how we are designing our co-joined programmes.

- 1. RENEGOTIATING SOCIAL CONTRACTS**
- 2. PROMOTING A SHARED GLOBAL GREEN DEAL**

**We explore the emerging contours, plans, thinking and products each of these two connected programmes.**

**1. RENEGOTIATING SOCIAL CONTRACTS**

**Introduction and rationale:** GEC and its partners will **promote and normalise new mechanisms for citizen engagement, expand their use and their effectiveness**, in order that there is an accelerated and inclusive transformation to green and fair economies. This is our answer to the question how we gain whole of society support for economic transformation.

Currently, there is **no guarantee** that the transformation will be **fair, green or fast enough**. Popular support for 'green economy or green deals' is troublingly thin, and insufficient thought has been given to how

democratic tools can be used to build support for a sustained and far-reaching transformation. This is why a growing list of diverse actors including the UN Secretary General, trade unions, and the World Economic Forum are all now talking about the renewing the social contract between citizens and governments.

In response, the GEC has decided to promote the idea and use of **social contracts** to mobilise movements and secure ambitious mandates for systemic economic transformation.

### **Approach and Theory of Change:**

We have designed the programme in components so it can connect to partners and funders at manageable scales. We expect to fund it through a funder consortium. We envisage an approximate programme run rate of £4m pa for 4 years. The programme has five main components: **national social contracts; global campaign; a global action-research platform; cultivators** for movement building; and **programme management**. In more detail:

#### **1. National social contracts for local green deals**

We will promote the adoption and use of social contract processes in different geographical contexts, with different sectoral approaches and with attention to traditionally excluded stakeholder groups. This will create social mandate and lobbying power for improved green economic policy in chosen countries and action learning cases to be disseminated across the global campaign.

We will pursue two approaches: **Push** - where we have existing aligned relationships ready to lead, and **Pull** - where we act to support innovation, new partnerships, and movement building.

#### **2. Global Campaign - Policy, Advocacy & Mobilization**

Our approach is to establish a global '**Social contract for Shared Global green deal**' campaign team, six co-convenors. We have partners lined up, including C40, ICLEI, Transparency International, Columbia Climate School, CIVICUS, UNRISD and Christian Aid. They would focus on promoting the use of social contract processes and green economic policy adoption, through global solidarity movement building that actively uses and champions the social contract processes. We will draw out policy insights from national processes and repackage them to all partners – catalysing shared influencing from our Coalition of 60+ member organizations. We would ensure both youth and digital campaigning is at the heart of the solidarity movement building approach. Together we will tell the story of transition, of leaders, courage, obstacles, failures and success.

We have influence partnerships in place and shall work closely with the UN, and the policy group 'Partners for Inclusive Green Economy (PIGE)' to promote these concepts globally through regional mechanisms. We have strong working relationships with other movements such as Global Recovery Collective, Beyond Bretton Woods, Debt Justice, and others. We are working on G20 influencing via T20 and with GIZ on informing and shaping the global economic architecture, e.g. Macron-Modi-Mottley Paris Financing summit.

#### **3. Action-research network**

Our UNRISD/GEC convened Global Research and Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract is one year old and already 300+ members, co-developing intellectual and policy power through a platform built for research and knowledge sharing. UNRISD is an autonomous research institute in the UN that focuses on social justice which gives it the freedom to ask difficult questions relating to development processes – about power, politics and distribution. UNRISD have a uniquely strong southern-based research network which will ensure that we are working to make all voices are heard. We are regularly convening 150+ global attendees from 30-50 countries for webinars on social contract themes. In addition, due to our action research network, UNRISD has been invited by the Club of Madrid and the Global Solutions Summit to lead their working groups on a new eco-social contract, and by the Chilean constitutional commission to advise them on gender. Within this network, GEC is helping to establish new communities practice for women, youth, indigenous communities, and small business that will pioneer, use, and benefit from social contract processes.

#### 4. Leadership Cultivators

Public trust (or the lack of it) is the greatest risk to the success of this programme – both to construct a powerful intersectional movement and to help engage with governments. We have identified a need for ‘Cultivators’ from prioritized communities including young people, minority groups, indigenous communities, and migrant workers; as well as from business, finance and politics. These cultivators will both focus inward to make our work authentic and focus outward to help us build solidarity, partnerships and movement for the change we are proposing. They will be funded to convene workshops, to broker trusted relationships, and to communicate and advocate effectively. We have pioneered this work with Dr. Kumi Naidoo over the last 12 months and our Power, People and Planet podcast series.

#### 5. Global programme management

This is a complex global and international partnership with co-ordination at its heart. Strategic design, monitoring & evaluation and excellent programme management will be the difference between success and failure. Fortunately, the GEC has experience of this scale of work and this number of partners.

**Steering Group – any comments and advice on the Social contract programme shape, partners, theory of change, aims, objectives?**

**N.b. Social contract – what does it really mean – show us, why, what, how and who.**

To date this is the question we have been posed repeatedly. Therefore, GEC’s first big intervention from the Social contract programme will be a flagship document that responds to that question. This document helps establish our agenda, our thinking and our programme. Due to its strategic significance, **we propose it should come with a foreword from the GEC Steering Group.** I attach an annotated outline of the document.

**GEC Steering Group to review annotated outline and draft foreword.**

- **Do Steering Group agree with a foreword from them?**
- **Steering Group comments on document and foreword**
- **Will Steering Group review the final draft full document?**

## 2. SHARED GLOBAL GREEN DEAL

In response to accelerating climate change, biodiversity loss and social fragmentation, the US, EU and China governments are mobilising more than \$5 trillion<sup>1</sup> towards their [own green deals](#). There is an emerging green economy trade and investment war between these economic powers, that threatens ROW and these blocks with negative consequences. Alternatively, there is an opportunity to seek a new global economic architecture that supports all nations to actively transform, pool risks, share benefits, learn and act together.

What might this architecture look like and how might it be brought to life? These new green deals are setting the green agenda via their gravitational pull – but we are focusing on what fits in between. The synergies of this new green, investment ambition. The friction areas around carbon borders, taxonomy competition, and trade diversion. And (hopefully) an emergent multilateral architecture that can put floors under investment in the green economy transition for emerging and developing countries - inspired by ideas like the Bridgetown Initiative, and Just Energy Transition Partnerships.

We have had a briefing accepted by the T20 advisory process to the G20, setting out some of this early thinking (attached, for comments) - ‘**Addressing the green investment and coherence gap via a multilateral framework for structural green transition policies**’.

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<sup>1</sup> There are no solid figures that capture the scale the transition, but for China’s decarbonisation commitment alone [Goldman Sachs estimated](#) \$16tn of clean tech infrastructure investments and 40mn net new jobs by 2060.

It builds directly on our past work with OECD, GGKP and others on ‘structural’ green recovery interventions - that captured the COVID-19 stimulus momentum, and set out a richer agenda for how governments must invest for the long term.

We are evolving our thinking, testing and improving through our membership, our hubs and our close partners – many of whom are engaged in this ‘new global financial architecture’ space. We envision evolving the [Green Economy Tracker](#) to be a tool that complements this work and provides not just a sense of country ambition, but a vision of a global thematic agenda.

**SG thoughts and advice for this programme – on the content, the influence targets, partners, the approaches to influence**

**We share the paper T20 paper for interest and for detailed SG comments off line.**

### **The GEC Steering Group reporting - SUMMARY – Annual work plan - 2023 PRIORITIES**

**NB – the reporting framework is mostly amber as the activities and targets are largely reset.**

|    | <b>Strategic Theme</b>  | <b>Status Update</b>   | <b>Status</b> | <b>Planned activities</b>  |
|----|---|--|---------------|--|
| 1  | <b>Telling new narratives</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New narratives around social contract and green deal in development with some materials already up – including an <a href="#">explainer video</a></li> <li>• Cultivator approach being pioneered through Kumi Naidoo partnership – <a href="#">Power, People, Planet podcasts</a>.</li> <li>• New mechanisms paper in development for July.</li> </ul>  | GREEN         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positioning as bridge-building for transformative policy</li> <li>• Develop social contract campaign messaging and partnership</li> <li>• Strengthen and expand our cultivator network</li> <li>• Develop green deal campaign – including tracker</li> </ul>  |
| 2. | <b>Building societal demand:</b><br><b>-Social contract</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amber – because some work possible under EC contract, but bigger ambitions need <b>new funding</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">UNRISD and GEC research and Action network for Eco-social contract</a> now has <b>300+members</b>, and eight active working groups</li> <li>• We have funded a youth economic reform network assessment – report and new work imminent</li> <li>• <a href="#">People’s Accord for a New Social Contract</a> up and being promoted</li> <li>• Published though piece on <a href="#">Dismantling the Ecological Divide: Toward a new eco-social contract</a></li> </ul> | GREEN         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund social contract programme – advanced foundation conversations with four foundations</li> <li>• Champion a youth economic reform network – launch report</li> <li>• Initiate/connect to women and SME economic reform communities</li> <li>• Develop social contract thought and practice</li> </ul>                  |
| 3. | <b>Influencing policies:</b><br><b>Shared global green deal</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amber – green deal plus EU circularity focus creates new changes to policy framing</li> <li>• Shared Global green deal defined with EC</li> <li>• Understanding and collaboration with UNEP and GGKP agreed</li> <li>• Workshop with hubs held and consultation.</li> </ul>   | GREEN         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>T20 Structural green economy intervention</b></li> <li>• Further Consult with hubs and members to develop ‘Shared Global green deal’ work</li> <li>• Harmonise understanding between policy frameworks</li> <li>• Catalyse policy exchange across regions and stakeholders</li> <li>• Revitalise PIGE group</li> </ul> |

|   | Strategic Theme   | Status Update  | Status | Planned activities  |
|---|---|--|--------|---|
| 4 | <b>Building the coalition:</b><br><br><b>Reenergise the coalition</b><br>around new phase of work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Red</b> - because EC phase 3 does not provide for HUB funding. New hub funding needed urgently – notably for Amazon hub</li> <li>• HUB Funding meeting and plans underway</li> <li>• Membership survey completed</li> <li>• GEC Europe negotiated with EC and IIED Europe</li> <li>• GEC global developments underway</li> </ul> | RED    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deliver hub funding – submissions in development</b></li> <li>• GEC Europe office to be launched soon</li> <li>• Exploring a GEC youth network</li> <li>• Membership consultation</li> <li>• MEL and operations improvement TOR and plan</li> </ul> |

### 3. AOB

1. **Outstanding Action-** Steering Group evolution discussion – to be scheduled
2. **Next meeting date - Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

#### Appendix: GEC Forward calendar<sup>i</sup> that maps above agenda items to a year of SG activity:

December: Annual review of strategy and partnership. - Global meeting agenda

Jan/February: Annual plan – calendar of events – priorities and targets for the year

March/April: Building the coalition – including funding

May/June: Big programme reviews

August/Sept: Influencing, Tracker, other policy areas

October: Telling the story and Barometer - context

December: global meeting strategy, partnership, annual plan review

Each meeting could have 5-minute standing agenda item on ‘horizon scanning’ – to identify big strategic issues

Individual SG members could volunteer to take the lead for particular items in the calendar. The advantage of a forward calendar is this should enable members’ forward planning.

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<sup>i</sup> Forward calendar for SG meetings approved in December 2019